DEWAN'S REPLY: നിങ്ങളുടെ നിവേദനം ഒരു സാരമായ വിഷയമാണ്. ഈ സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് തന്നെ ബോധ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിന് ഡെഫിനിറ്റായ ഒരു ബേസിസ് വേണമെന്ന് നിങ്ങളുടെ നിവേദനത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതിലേക്ക് ഒരുബിൽ (State Aid to Industries Bill) നിയമസഭയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളത് താമസിയാതെ പാസ്സാക്കുന്നതാണ്.

[Your representation relates to an important subject. Government have realised that, and the State Aid to Industries Bill now before the Legislative Council is intended to place the rules relating to the issue of industrial loans on a definite basis.]

38. Rubber Industry.

MR. ABRAHAM JOHN (*Trading Classes, Kottayam*) speaking in Malayalam, referred to the great fall in the price of rubber and to the consequent hardships suffered by the people, especially the rubber cultivators. Pecple had invested very large sums in rubber estates, in the country. The question of manufacturing rubber goods from the rubber produced in the State should engage the attention of both the Government and the people without any delay. The Government should investigate immediately the possibility of establishing a limited company, with a large capital, for the purpose of manufacturing rubber goods such as tubes and tyres, from indigenous rubber. This would relieve to a great extent the unemployment in the State and also check the great drain of the country's money every year on account of the purchase of tyres and tubes from foreign markets. Hence a State-aided limited company for the manufacture of rubber goods should be established without any loss of time.

DEWAN'S REPLY : നിങ്ങൾപറഞ്ഞ വിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ആലോചിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ പ്രഥമദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ അതു് അത്ര പ്രായോഗികവും എളുപ്പവുമായ ഒന്നാണോ എന്ന് സംശയം തോന്നുന്നുണ്ട്. വലിയഫാക്ടറികൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ച് അതിൽ വലിയ പണമുടക്കം ചെയ്ത് റബ്ബർ സാമാനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കി അയക്കുന്ന വിദേശരാജ്യങ്ങളോട്, റബ്ബറിന് വിലകുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു് ചെറുതായ ഒരു ഫാക്ടറി സ്ഥാപിച്ച് ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സാമാനങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട്, കിടപിടിച്ച് നില്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ എന്ന് സംശയമാണ്. ഏതായാലും ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി നിശ്ചയമായ ഒരഭിപ്രായം പറയണമെങ്കിൽ അപ്പുറവും ഇപ്പുറവും ഉള്ളകാര്യങ്ങൾ ആലോചിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല.

[Your proposal will be considered. But *prima facie*, your suggestion does not appear practicable or easy, for it is doubtful whether a small factory established here can successfully compete with large

factories elsewhere with immense capital, particularly as the present price of rubber is low. But, before expressing a definite opinion, the pros and cons have to be considered.]

39. Work of Co-operative Societies.

MR. N. PAPPU PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Mavelikara*) said that so far 1,806 co-operative societies had been registered in Travancore, out of which 1,784 societies had started work. But except in the case of a few societies, the working of the societies was not at all satisfatory. The percentage of arrears of loans was increasing. The percentages of arrears under principal and interest, which were 26 and 28, respectively, in 1104, had increased to 32 and 34, respectively in 1105. The arrears of agricultural societies in 1104 and 1105 were 35 and 39 per cent. respectively. The ability of the members to repay loans was decreasing day by day. They had also no mind to repay the debts. The cases filed in the Registrar's office against defaulters were innumerable. Members were becoming more and more selfish and quarrelsome. The factions among the members in certain societies had even led to criminal cases. In short, the condition of primary societies was quite deplorable. The main reasons for this state of affairs were the ignorance of the members about the principles of co-operation, the lack of facilities for acquiring the same, want of sufficient Supervisors and supervision, the inefficiency of the Supervisors and the lack of Government help. For the purpose of supervison, there were at present one Registrar and his Personal Assistant, twenty-seven Inspectors and twenty Supervisors of Co-operative Unions. Of these, the Inspectors and the Supervisors were engaged in audit work from the first of Mithunam to the end of Thulam. They spent the next three months in getting ready the audit report and for the remaining four months they did no work, except attending to the preliminaries connected with the audit work. Thus they had no time to remove the defects in the working of the societies or to issue instructions to the members on the principles of co-operation. The head of the department had no time to supervise their work. It was two or three years since the Registrar visited the Mavelikara taluk.

In 1105, the Inspectors audited 707 societies and the Supervisors 864 societies. At present each Inspector had to supervise 70 societies. This was too much for one officer. The number of Inspectors should be increased. In Madras, the department was much better staffed. In 1915, for 1,748 societies in Madras there were 60 Inspectors, against 27 Inspectors for 1,806 societies in Travancore at the present day. The strength and efficiency of the staff of the Co-operative Department in the State should be increased.

The expenditure on the department was also very small compared to other Indian Provinces. While the expenditure per head of population ranged between 14 annas to Re. 1-12 annas in the British Indian Provinces, the expenditure per head of population in Travancore was only 3½ annas. The grants awarded to Supervising Unions were being